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## Harris claims most of the delegates she needs for the nomination, sets new fundraising record



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., meets with reporters to announce that he and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., will be meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss her candidacy after President Joe Biden's decision to drop his reelection bid, shown at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, July 22, 2024.

Associated Press

By ZEKE MILLER and SEUNG MIN KIM

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Vice President Kamala Harris received the backing of more than half of the Democratic delegates she needs to become her party's nominee, and she set a new

fundraising record Monday in her first 24 hours as a presidential candidate, as top Democrats moved to coalesce around her in their bid to defeat Republican Donald Trump.

Aiming to put weeks of intraparty drama over President Joe Biden's candidacy and prospects

in November behind them, prominent Democratic elected officials, party leaders and political organizations quickly lined up behind Harris.

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# Harris claims most of the delegates she needs for the nomination, sets new fundraising record

Continued from Front

The Democratic worries over Biden's fitness for office were replaced by fresh signs of unity, as the party looked to Harris to lead them after a seismic shift to the presidential contest that upended both major political parties' carefully honed plans for the 2024 race.

Biden's departure frees his delegates to vote for whomever they choose. Harris, whom Biden backed after ending his candidacy, is thus far the only declared candidate and was working to quickly secure endorsements from a majority of delegates.

Key endorsements Monday, including Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, left a vanishing list of potential rivals to Harris.

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, who had been one of the notable holdouts to Harris, initially encouraging a primary to strengthen the eventual nominee, endorsed Harris Monday. Pelosi said she was lending her "enthusiastic support" to Harris' effort to lead the party.

More than 1,200 pledged delegates have told AP or announced that they plan to support Harris at the convention, which is over half of the pledged delegates she needs in order to clinch the nomination. Democratic National Committee rules most recently set 1,976 pledged delegates as the benchmark to win the nomination.

Winning the nomination is only the first item on a staggering political to-do list for her after Biden's decision to exit the race, which she learned about on a Sunday morning call with the president. If she's successful at locking up the nomination, she must also pick a running mate and pivot a massive political operation to boost her candidacy instead of Biden's with just over 100 days until Election



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 22, 2024, during an event with NCAA college athletes.

Associated Press

Day.

On Sunday afternoon, Biden's campaign formally changed its name to Harris for President, reflecting that she is inheriting his political operation of more than 1,000 staffers and a war chest that stood at nearly \$96 million at the end of June. She added \$81 million to that total in the first 24 hours after Biden's endorsement, her campaign said — a presidential fundraising record — with contributions from more than 888,000 donors.

Harris spent much of Sunday surrounded by family and staff, making more than 100 calls to Democratic officials to line up their support for her candidacy, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the effort. It comes as she tries to move her party past the painful, public wrangling that had defined the weeks since Biden's disastrous June 27 debate with Trump.

Speaking to party leaders, Harris expressed gratitude for Biden's endorsement but insisted she was looking to earn the nomination in her own right, the person said.

In a sign that the Democratic Party was moving to coalesce behind her, Harris

quickly won endorsements from the leadership of several influential caucuses and political organizations, including the AAPI Victory Fund, which focuses on Asian American and Pacific Islander voters, The Collective PAC, focused on building Black political power, and the Latino Victory Fund, as well as the chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the entire Congressional Black Caucus. Harris, if elected, would be the first woman and first person of South Asian descent to be president.

Notably, a handful of men who had already been discussed as potential running mates for Harris — Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper and Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly — also swiftly issued statements endorsing her. Aides to Shapiro and Cooper confirmed that Harris spoke with them Sunday afternoon. In her brief call with Cooper, the North Carolina governor told Harris he was backing her to be the Democratic nominee, according to Cooper spokeswoman Sadie Weiner.

But former President Barack Obama held off on an immediate endorsement, as some in the party have

expressed worry that the quick shift to Harris would appear to be a coronation, instead pledging his support behind the eventual party nominee.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who left the party earlier this year but considered re-registering as a Democrat to vie for the nomination against the vice president, told CBS News on Monday that he would not be a candidate.

In an indication of how she will have to balance her day job and her new role as candidate, Harris made her first public appearance Monday morning at the White House, where she opened her address to National Collegiate Athletic Association championship teams by praising Biden's "unmatched" legacy, saying she was "deeply grateful for his service to our nation."

Harris was filling in at the event for Biden, who is recovering at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware after contracting COVID-19 last week.

She was later set to travel to Wilmington, where the Biden campaign had been headquartered, to meet with her new campaign staff.

Harris, in a statement, praised Biden's "selfless and patriotic act" in deciding

to leave the race and said she intends to "earn and win" her party's nomination. "I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda," she said.

Biden planned to discuss his decision to step aside later this week in an address to the nation. He wrote in a letter posted Sunday to his X account, "I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term."

Nearly 30 minutes after he delivered the news that he was folding his campaign, Biden threw his support behind Harris.

"Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year," he said in another post on X. "Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump."

The Democratic National Convention is scheduled to be held Aug. 19-22 in Chicago, but the party had announced it would hold a virtual roll call to formally nominate Biden before in-person proceedings begin. The convention's rules committee is scheduled to meet this week to finalize its nomination process and it is unclear how it will be adjusted to reflect Biden's exit. Congressional Hispanic Caucus chairwoman Nanette Barragán, who emphasized that she was "all in" behind the vice president, said she spoke Sunday with Harris, who communicated that she preferred to forgo a virtual roll call for the nomination process and instead hold a process that adheres to regular order.

The Democratic National Committee's chair, Jaime Harrison, said in a statement that the party would "undertake a transparent and orderly process" to select "a candidate who can defeat Donald Trump in November." □



# EPA awards \$4.3 billion to fund projects in 30 states to reduce climate pollution

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Environmental Protection Agency is awarding \$4.3 billion in grants to fund projects in 30 states to reduce climate pollution. The money will go to 25 projects targeting greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electric power, commercial and residential buildings, industry, agriculture and waste and materials management. The grants are paid for by the 2022 climate law approved by congressional Democrats. The law, officially known as the Inflation Reduction Act, includes nearly \$400 billion in spending and tax credits to accelerate the expansion of clean energy such as wind and solar power, speeding the nation's transition away from the oil, coal and natural gas that largely cause climate change.

The latest round of grants includes \$396 million to Pennsylvania to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions from cement, asphalt and other material. EPA Administrator Michael Regan will join Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro in Pittsburgh on Monday to announce grant recipients in his state, a political battleground in the 2024 election, and across the nation.

Senior EPA leaders also will join Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla of California on Mon-



**Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro speaks during a news conference overlooking the Susquehanna River from a balcony at the offices of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in Harrisburg, Pa.**

day to announce nearly \$500 million for transportation and freight decarbonization at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The grants will provide incentives for electric charging equipment, zero-emission freight vehicles and conversion of cargo handling equipment to lower emissions.

"President Biden understands that America needs a strong EPA," Regan told reporters Friday, noting the Democratic administration "has made the largest cli-

mate investment in history, providing billions of dollars to state, local and tribal governments to tackle climate change with the urgency it demands."

The funds, to be delivered this fall, "will help implement community-driven solutions that reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice and help accelerate America's clean energy transition," Regan said.

Shapiro, a Democrat who has been mentioned as a possible vice presidential

pick now that Biden has stepped down from the presidential race, said his administration has taken action to address climate change while continuing to create energy jobs and expand the economy.

The grant being announced Monday "is one of the largest federal grants Pennsylvania has ever received," Shapiro said in a statement ahead of Monday's announcement. The state will work with RISE PA, a new initiative aimed at reducing industrial sector

emissions in Pennsylvania.

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy will receive \$307 million to boost "climate-smart" agriculture and reduce agricultural waste from livestock, officials said. The grant also will fund projects to improve energy efficiency in commercial and industrial facilities and low-income households, as well as deploy solar panels and electrify irrigation wells.

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird of Lincoln, Nebraska, said the grant will enhance energy efficiency of homes and commercial buildings in her city. A city analysis indicates that investing in energy efficiency and electrification could reduce Lincoln's emissions by 77% by 2050, Baird said on a White House call Friday.

The grant also will ensure Lincoln residents have "equitable access to the clean energy transition" by providing assistance to low-income residents, she said.

Other grants include nearly \$250 million to boost electric vehicle infrastructure along Interstate 95 from Maryland to Connecticut. The project will provide charging infrastructure for commercial zero-emission vehicles and provide technical assistance for workforce development along the I-95 corridor, one of the most heavily traveled in the nation. □

Associated Press

## CrowdStrike CEO called to testify to Congress over cybersecurity's firm role in global tech outage

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. House leaders are calling on CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz to testify to Congress about the cybersecurity company's role in sparking the widespread tech outage that grounded flights, knocked banks and hospital systems offline and affected services around the world. CrowdStrike said this week a "significant number" of the millions of computers that crashed on Friday, causing global disruptions, are back in operation as its custom-

ers and regulators await a more detailed explanation of what went wrong.

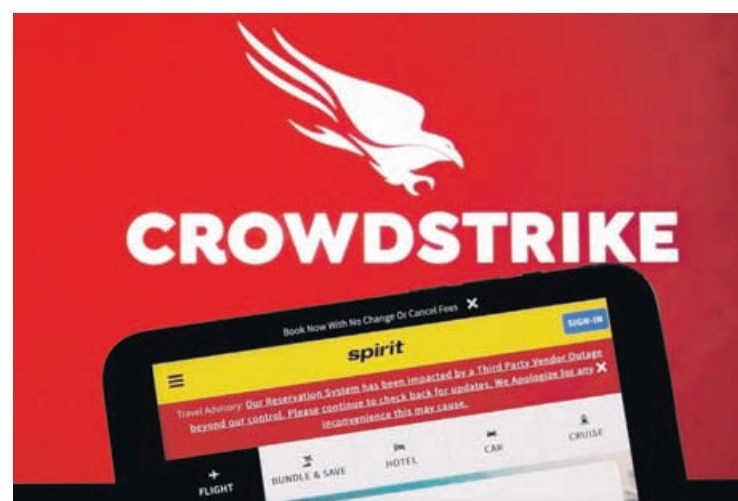
Republicans who lead the House Homeland Security committee said Monday they want those answers soon.

"While we appreciate CrowdStrike's response and coordination with stakeholders, we cannot ignore the magnitude of this incident, which some have claimed is the largest IT outage in history," said a letter to Kurtz from Rep. Mark E.

Green of Tennessee and Rep. Andrew Garbarino of New York.

They added that Americans "deserve to know in detail how this incident happened and the mitigation steps CrowdStrike is taking."

A defective software update sent by CrowdStrike to its customers disrupted airlines, banks, hospitals and other critical services Friday, affecting about 8.5 million machines running Microsoft's Windows operating system.



**The logo for CrowdStrike and a Spirit Airlines webpage are shown on a computer screen and mobile phone screen, in New York, Friday, July 19, 2024.**

Associated Press

The painstaking work of fixing it has often required a company's IT crew to manually delete files on affected machines.

CrowdStrike said late Sunday in a blog post that it was starting to implement a new technique to accelerate remediation of the problem. □



# Wildfires plague the West amid a scorching heat wave. Homes burn in Southern California

**RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) —**

Three homes lay in ruins Monday after one of many dangerous wildfires in the West suddenly swept into a Southern California neighborhood during a blistering heat wave.

The homes were ravaged when the fire erupted Sunday afternoon in a hilly area of Riverside, a city about 60 miles (95 kilometers) east of Los Angeles. Four other structures were damaged, Riverside Deputy Fire Chief Steve McKinster said.

The cause of the fire, which had scorched just under a square mile (2.6 square kilometers), was under investigation.

Resident Noel Piri and his wife were away when they got a call about a fire in the neighborhood, rushed home and rescued their dog. Unfortunately, their house was in flames when firefighters arrived, The Press-Enterprise reported.

"It was kind of sad to see the house was gone," Piri told the newspaper after rummaging through the remains of the newly remodeled house.

Riverside hit 102 degrees (38.9 Celsius) on Sunday amid a heat wave that has been largely focused on the interior of California and is



Firefighters hose down hot spots at Noel Piri's home that was destroyed by the Hawarden Fire in Riverside, Calif., on Sunday, July 21, 2024.

Associated Press

expected to last through much of the week.

Many other fires were also burning throughout the state, including one that started Saturday and rapidly expanded to more than 4 square miles (10.3 square kilometers) on the border of Lake and Colusa counties, northwest of Sacramento. Containment reached 25% on Monday.

More than two dozen fires were burning in the Pacific Northwest and Idaho, where lightning ignited more blazes in Oregon over the weekend

amid extremely dry and hot conditions. The largest blazes were active in rural areas of eastern Oregon and Washington, where smoke impacted air quality.

Authorities evacuated the town of Huntington, Oregon, with a population of about 500, and closed a stretch of Interstate 84 late Sunday after thunderstorms caused a massive smoke column to collapse.

The implosion of the plume sent winds of 50 mph (80 kph) in every direction, raising fears the fire would jump

I-84, the Baker County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post announcing the "go now" evacuations.

By Monday, I-84 had reopened and the town was still safe, but evacuation orders remained in place and extreme fire behavior was expected again, authorities said. The fire covered more than 272 square miles (704 square kilometers) with no containment.

Large wildfires can generate huge plumes of smoke and ash that can rise more than 5 miles (8 kilometers),

depending on conditions such as the terrain, weather and temperature. The columns can collapse when the amount of heat over the fire drops — from changing fuels or weather — and reduces the updraft, or when strong winds shear off the top of the column.

In the most extreme cases, smoke columns can be topped with "fire clouds," or pyrocumulus clouds, that look much like the thunderheads that develop before a big thunderstorm.

It's not unusual for a smoke column to collapse, and some fires go through multiple cycles of column collapse and regeneration in a day, according to the Southwest Fire Science Consortium.

Authorities in Utah, meanwhile, lifted evacuation orders for a wildfire in Salt Lake City that threatened neighborhoods near the state Capitol over the weekend. The blaze began Saturday and grew to about 200 acres (80 hectares). The evacuation order was lifted late Sunday, but officials cautioned that residents needed to remain ready to evacuate, with the fire only partially under control as of Monday morning. □



This undated image provided by the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office shows Bob Glynn Dean Jr.

Associated Press

**By KEVIN MCGILL**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW ORLEANS (AP) —** A Louisiana businessman who sent more than 800 elderly residents from his seven nursing homes to ride out Hurricane Ida in a crowded, ill-equipped warehouse pleaded no contest to 15

criminal counts Monday and was sentenced to three years of probation.

Bob Dean Jr. also must pay more than \$358,000 in restitution to the state health department and more than \$1 million as a monetary penalty, but state Attorney General Liz Murrill expressed

## No prison for a nursing home owner who sent 800 residents to ride out a hurricane in squalor

frustration in a news release that Dean didn't get any prison time.

"We asked specifically that he be sentenced to a minimum of 5 years in prison, and not be given only probation. I respect our judicial system and that the judge has the ultimate discretion over the appropriate sentence, but I remain of the opinion that Dean should be serving prison time," her statement said. Dean, 70, owned seven nursing homes in New Orleans and southeast Louisiana. As Ida approached, Dean moved hundreds of residents into a building in the town of Independence,

roughly 70 miles (110 kilometers) northwest of New Orleans.

Authorities said conditions at the warehouse deteriorated rapidly after the powerful storm hit on Aug. 29, 2021. They found ill and elderly bedridden people on mattresses on the wet floor, some crying for help, some lying in their own waste. Civil suits against Dean's corporation said the ceiling leaked and toilets overflowed at the sweltering warehouse, and there was too little food and water.

Within days after the storm hit, the state reported the deaths of seven of the evac-

uees, five of them classified as storm-related.

By the time Dean was arrested on state charges in June 2022, he had lost state licenses and federal funding for his nursing homes.

According to Murrill, Dean pleaded no contest to eight counts of cruelty to the infirmed, two counts of obstruction of justice and five counts of Medicaid fraud. Judge Brian Abels sentenced Dean to a total of 20 years in prison, but deferred the sentences in favor of three years of probation. The plea was entered in Tangipahoa, north of New Orleans. □



## U.S. ambassador visits Haiti to meet new leaders and Kenyan police helping to curb gang violence

By JADE LOZADA

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations traveled to Haiti on Monday to meet leaders of the new transitional government and the Kenyan police who are the vanguard of a U.N.-backed force meant to help the country's national police curb widespread gang violence.

A senior U.S. administration official said Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield's one-day visit also seeks to encourage action on Haiti's humanitarian crisis and political reform leading to democratic elections in 2026.

The ambassador will make two major announcements related to Haiti's security and humanitarian crises, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of the visit.

Gangs have grown in power since the July 7, 2021, assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and are now estimated to control up to 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and have spread



U.S. Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian Nichols, right, holds out a cell phone to take a photo with, from right, Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Haitian Foreign Minister Dominique Dupuy before they meet with the Haitian Transitional Presidential Council at the Villa d'Accueil in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, July 22, 2024.

Associated Press

into surrounding areas. The surge in killings, rapes and kidnappings has led to a violent uprising by civilian vigilante groups.

There has been wide international support for the new transitional govern-

ment led by Prime Minister Garry Conille, a former U.N. development specialist who arrived in the country in early June. Earlier this month, he told the U.N. Security Council that the Kenyan police will be cru-

cial to helping control the country's gangs and moving toward democratic elections.

According to U.N. agencies, the violence has displaced 580,000 people, more than half of whom

are children, and resulted in 4 million people facing food insecurity.

In a signal of support for the U.N. mission to Haiti and the Kenyan police, Thomas-Greenfield will visit the police force's living complex and meet Conille, members of the transitional presidential council and U.N. and civil society representatives.

Haiti asked for an international force to combat gangs in 2022, and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for months for a country to lead the force before the Kenyans came forward.

A second Kenyan contingent of 200 police officers landed in Haiti last week, following the first contingent of 200 officers last month. The multinational force will eventually total 2,500 personnel from Kenya, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Chad and Jamaica.

They will be deployed in phases at a cost of some \$600 million a year, according to the U.N. Security Council. □

## Brazil's Lula urges Venezuela's Maduro to respect vote results, is 'frightened' by talk of bloodbath

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) —

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said Monday his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolás Maduro should respect the results of the elections scheduled for Sunday, and said he was "frightened" by Maduro's reference to a possible post-election bloodbath.

The veteran leader will send a top diplomat to neighboring Venezuela as an observer of the vote.

"Maduro knows that the only chance for Venezuela to return to normality is to have an electoral process that is respected by everyone," Lula told reporters at the presidential residence in Brasília. "He has to respect the democratic process." Maduro has gov-

erned Venezuela since 2013, taking over after the death of predecessor and mentor Hugo Chávez. The 61-year-old has won elections that his adversaries deemed not to be free and fair. His 2018 reelection was widely considered a sham, as major opposition parties and candidates were banned from participating. His main adversary will be Edmundo González, a former diplomat chosen by the opposition coalition to replace the fiery leader María Corina Machado on the ballot.

"If Maduro wants to contribute for growth to return to Venezuela, for people who left Venezuela to come back and to establish a state of economic growth, he needs to respect the democratic pro-

cess," Lula said.

Lula, who for many years refused to openly criticize the Venezuelan leader, said he will send former foreign minister Celso Amorim to watch the elections on Sunday. Other Brazilian observers will also be present. "I got frightened with Maduro's statement saying there will be a bloodbath if he loses. When you lose, you go home and get ready to run in another election," Lula said.

In recent weeks, Maduro and allies have increased their references to post-election violence, asserting that the opposition will carry out violent demonstrations and reject the results, which the ruling party claims will show it victorious. "The destiny of Venezuela depends on our victory,"

Maduro told a rally this month. "If we want to avoid a bloodbath, or a fratricidal civil war triggered by the fascists, then we must guarantee the biggest electoral victory ever."

Lula also said he tried to

speak to Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega on behalf of Pope Francis about the leftist leader's decision to eject more than a dozen Roman Catholic clergymen from the Central American nation. □



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva takes a sip of coffee as he gives a press conference at his official residence Alvorada Palace in Brasília, Brazil, Monday, July 22, 2024.

Associated Press



# Philippine president orders shutdown of Chinese-run online gambling industry employing thousands.

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** —

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday ordered an immediate ban on widespread and mostly Chinese-run online gaming operations in the Philippines, accusing them of venturing into crimes, including financial scams, human trafficking, torture, kidnappings and murders.

His move to ban the Chinese-run online gambling outfits — estimated to number more than 400 across the Philippines and employing tens of thousands of Chinese and Southeast Asian nationals— came amid an ongoing government crackdown backed by Beijing. That has led to the shutdown of several sprawling complexes with dozens of buildings, where authorities suspect thousands of Chinese, Vietnamese and other nationals mostly from Southeast Asia have been illegally recruited and forced to work in dismal conditions. Marcos announced the decision during his state-of-the-nation address, when he also said that the Philippines would press efforts to strengthen its defensive capability by forging security alliances with friendly countries to counter threats to its territorial interests in



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. delivers his third State of the Nation Address as Senate President Francis Escudero, left and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, right, applaud at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, Philippines, on Monday, July 22, 2024.

Associated Press

the South China Sea, adding that his country would only settle disputes through diplomacy.

The Philippines has a complicated relationship with China, including significant trade engagements and cooperation against crimes. But the neighboring Asian countries have also had longstanding disputes in the South China Sea which have grown increasingly hostile since last year. Relatedly, Philippine senators ordered the arrest of a town mayor in Tarlac

province north of Manila who has failed to appear at public hearings where allegations against her were being investigated, including her alleged links to a large online gambling complex near her town-hall and suspicions that she fraudulently hid her Chinese nationality to be able to run for a public office reserved only for Filipinos.

The mayor, Alice Guo, has denied any wrongdoing but has been suspended from her post with her financial assets ordered frozen.

Philippine senators say the massive online gambling industry has flourished largely due to corruption in regulatory agencies and payoffs to local officials.

"Disguising as legitimate entities, their operations have ventured into illicit areas furthest from gaming such as financial scamming, money laundering, prostitution, human trafficking, kidnapping, brutal torture, even murder," Marcos said in his address. "The grave abuse and disrespect to our system of laws must stop." Marcos

ordered the government's gaming agency to wind down the operations of the so-called Philippine offshore gaming operators, or PO-GOs, by yearend, drawing loud applause from legislators and top officials at the House of Representatives. He asked labor officials to look for alternative jobs for Filipino workers who would be displaced because of the shutdown. Setting out his vision for the year ahead, Marcos outlined moves to address a range of issues, including soaring costs of food and electricity, poverty and low wages. His administration's "bloodless war" on dangerous drugs never aimed at "extermination," Marcos said in an obvious criticism of his predecessor's brutal anti-drugs crackdown that left thousands of mostly innocent suspects killed.

The International Criminal Court has been investigating the widespread drug killings under former President Rodrigo Duterte as a possible crime against humanity. Duterte has denied authorizing extra-judicial killings. On Manila's increasingly hostile disputes with Beijing, Marcos stressed the Philippines would not back down but would only resort to peaceful means to resolve any dispute. □

## Cyprus displays once-looted antiquities dating back thousands of years

**NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)** —

Cyprus on Monday put on display artifacts some of

them thousands of years old that were returned after a Turkish art dealer

looted them from the ethnically divided island nation decades ago.

Aydin Dikmen took the artifacts from the country's breakaway north in the years after Cyprus' split in 1974, when Turkey invaded following a coup mounted by supporters of union with Greece. The antiquities were kept in Germany after authorities there seized them in 1997, and protracted legal battles secured their repatriation in three batches, the last one this year.

Addressing the unveiling ceremony at Cyprus' archaeological museum, President Nikos Christodoulides said the destruc-

tion of a country's cultural heritage as evidenced in recent conflicts becomes a "deliberate campaign of cultural and religious cleansing that aims to eliminate identity."

Among the 60 most recently returned artifacts put on display include jewelry from the Chalcolithic Period between 3500-1500 B.C. and Bronze Age bird-shaped idols.

Antiquities that Dikmen also looted but were returned years ago include 1,500-year-old mosaics of Saints Luke, Mark, Matthew and James.

They are among the few examples of early Christian works to survive the

iconoclastic period in the 8th and 9th centuries when most such works were destroyed.

Cyprus' authorities and the country's Orthodox Church for decades have been hunting for the island's looted antiquities and centuries-old relics from as many as 500 churches in open auctions and on the black market.

The museum's antiquities curator, Eftychia Zachariou, told the ceremony that Cyprus in recent years has benefited from a shift in thinking among authorities in many countries who now opt to repatriate antiquities of dubious provenance. □



Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides, right, stands in front of an Orthodox Christian icon after the same was repatriated and displayed at the Archeological museum in capital Nicosia, Cyprus, Monday, July 22, 2024.

Associated Press



# Today is going to be a good day

**(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.**

## Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website [www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org)

## Philip's Animal Garden



To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from

horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: [www.philipsanimalgarden.com](http://www.philipsanimalgarden.com).

## The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. [www.arubalighthouse.com](http://www.arubalighthouse.com) will give you more information.

## Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you

are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some work-out -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

## Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour



A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

## Go for a shopping spree in the city center



Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Dutch Village!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

#### Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr. Malcolm & Mrs. Jayne Sibson from Leicester,



United Kingdom

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Dutch Village bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's turtles.
- "The ambiance of the Island"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

## The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

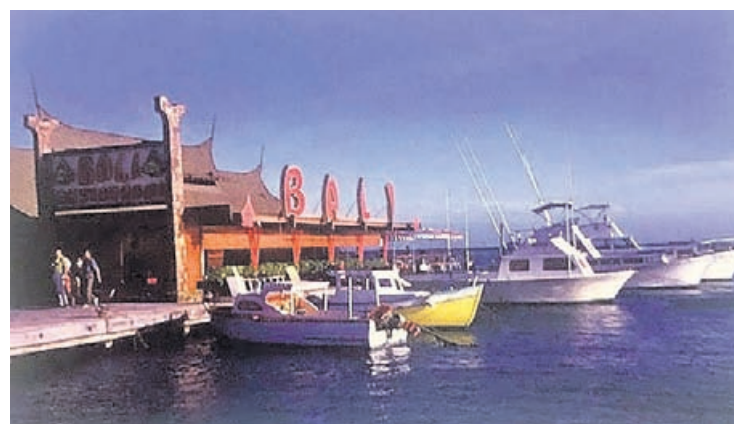


(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25

guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during



which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was

also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over

to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.



## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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## Skipp and Winnie: power couple celebrating their 66th anniversary in Aruba!

Skipp and Winnie have been coming to our island 3 times a year for the last 40 years. They became Aruba ambassadors about 5 years ago and have been together since 1958 as a married couple.

The first time they came to Aruba they stayed at Bushiri Hotel and for the last 37 years at Divi Aruba All inclusive where they became part of the family. They have seen Aruba's development from coast to coast over the last 40 years. We all want to congratulate this amazing couple that has done so well by our island and we wish Skipp and Winnie many more years of a happy married life! □

Photo by Steve Francees.



## Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

### Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from



park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set! If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

### Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situ-



ated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors. When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder. □

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours



## Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

**Many years ago, Cha\* Tiger did not live in the mondi\*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.**

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for

him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei\*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger

ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth



what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria\* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch. Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

**Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.**

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi





# The Aruban Cunukero

## From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.



### Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasants", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with

other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to be-

come real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th cen-

tury that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that

many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henry E. red. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Look upon
- 7 See socially
- 11 Mecca's place
- 12 Poet Khayyám
- 13 Tempting
- 15 Stand up
- 16 Rara —
- 18 Picnic pests
- 21 Secluded valley
- 22 Dealer's place
- 24 Neither follower
- 25 Buddy
- 26 Fiddling need
- 27 Movie ad
- 29 Smoke source
- 30 Family fight
- 31 "Dog-gone!"
- 32 Printer's proof
- 34 Day-dreaming
- 40 Pop star
- 41 Broad street
- 42 Took the bus
- 43 Walk-up dweller

## DOWN

- 1 Baseball need
- 2 Period of history
- 3 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 4 Acquire
- 5 Tale tellers
- 6 Surrealist Salvador
- 7 Egg buys
- 8 Paris pal
- 9 Suede shade
- 10 Work unit
- 14 Writer Asimov
- 16 Detached
- 17 Poem part
- 19 Leg bone

WOLFE	DWELL
ADORN	REVUE
REGAN	EDITS
NUTS	LET
ALLKINDS	
ROOF	TETHER
ABDUL	NUEVO
LEERED	TREE
TINSTARS	
TOE	PANG
ORTIZ	OASIS
YANNI	BRUCE
SLANG	STEEP

## Yesterday's answer

- 20 Horse sound
- 21 Economic fig.
- 22 Lot buy
- 23 Have debts
- 25 Sorceress of myth
- 28 Slow mover
- 29 Like ice
- 31 Impetus
- 33 Exam for high school jrs.
- 34 Fragrant tree
- 35 Com-motion
- 36 Silent approval
- 37 "— pig's eye!"
- 38 Convent resident
- 39 Attain

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
			15						
	16	17				18		19	20
21					22				23
24				25				26	
27			28					29	
	30					31			
			32		33				
34	35	36						37	38
40						41			
42						43			

4-30

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-30

## CRYPTOQUOTE

M FXQD IEDXZ TXMZ F MR

TSSGJ — JDGT-BSRTMWDRBD.

LN TEMDRWJ BXGG MZ.

— DWIXE XGGXR VSD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER JUST MAY BE THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES. — AMANDA GORMAN

## Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7



## More money could result in fewer trips to ER, study suggests



A cyclist rides along a street near the Tobin Memorial Bridge, background, in Chelsea, Mass., on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

By DEVNA BOSE  
AP Health Writer

Giving cash to poor people could result in fewer emergency department visits, a new study suggests. The study published Monday in the Journal of the American Medical Association looked at almost 2,900 low-income people who applied for a lottery in the Boston suburb of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Nearly 1,750 of them got up to \$400 per month from November 2020 to August 2021. The researchers then looked at health records and found that those who received the money had 27% fewer visits an emergency room in the nine-month period compared with those who didn't receive the monthly payments.

"We can trust the poor with money," said co-author Dr. Sumit Agarwal, a physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. □

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# Spectacle, spires and romance: The 'real suspense' behind Netflix doc 'Skywalkers: A Love Story'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

It started out as a film about rooftoppers.

The risk-takers who pose atop the world's tallest buildings, without safety nets or permission, had long been a fascination for filmmaker Jeff Zimbalist. He'd dabbled in the activity, on a smaller scale in his youth, and was fascinated to learn that it had become a global phenomenon on social media.

One rooftoper who stuck out was Angela Nikolau, notable for being one of the few women operating in the space. She introduced him to Ivan Beerkus, a fellow rooftoper who she'd begun doing joint posts with. Together, they were fascinating and good on camera.

"We didn't know what the finish line was," Zimbalist said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "We really took a leap of faith on this."

But in the making of "Skywalkers: A Love Story," now streaming on Netflix, Zimbalist quickly realized that there was something bigger happening with his subjects: They were falling in love.

This, he knew, was the story. The vertigo-inducing spectacle was the backdrop.



This image released by Netflix shows Ivan Beerkus, right, and Angela Nikolau in a scene from "Skywalkers: A Love Story."

And like illegally climbing an under-construction skyscraper, nothing was going to be simple or straightforward about the mission of putting it all together. In total, the small team spent six years making the film, traveling to six countries with Nikolau and Beerkus to capture their attempts to pose on top of the likes of the 1,957-foot (596.6-meter) Goldin Finance 117, in Tianjin, China, and the 2,227-foot (679-meter) Merdeka 118 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The film begins in a tense moment in Merdeka: They're trying to get to the top undetected. They're

scared. And their relationship is on the line.

Behind the scenes was the inherent danger of it all: The trespassing aspect takes on a different kind of gravity in strict countries like Malaysia. Add in the difficulties of continuing production through COVID and Russia's war on Ukraine, the logistics of filming without distracting, and the constant conversation about trust not only between filmmaker and subjects but between the subjects themselves.

"They'd only been doing short form," Zimbalist said. "The idea that we wanted access to all of the stuff in

between their perfect, polished, finished poses was a new concept to them."

Nikolau was already relatively famous by the time Zimbalist got in touch. Born in Moscow to circus performer parents, she began amassing a large social media following by posting photos of herself on the top of buildings in acrobatic poses. Beerkus was too, for his more "extreme" photographs and films. They were both ardently solo acts. But when they started climbing and posing together, around the time when Zimbalist and his team began to follow them, their popularity grew. Prior to the

**Associated Press**

Netflix debut, she had over 730,000 followers on Instagram, and he had over 236,000.

"We wanted to give it all to this project like we always do," Beerkus said through Maria Bukhonina, who co-directed the film and translated their interview. "But it was unusual when the cameras started following us everywhere."

One place they weren't being followed, however, was to the top of the spires or cranes. The filmmakers had made an agreement with their families to only go to the base roof with their verité cameras so as not to distract. Those shots were all done by the subjects themselves.

"They rigged themselves with body cams and night vision and GoPros and selfie sticks. Ivan's a master drone operator. And Angela really started to understand what coverage was," Zimbalist said. "They're credited as extreme cinematographers in the film."

Another essential lynchpin was Bukhonina, who was born in Russia, and became the main conduit to the subjects during the pandemic. She and their small camera crew were on the road with them for years. □

## Calls for Maya Rudolph to reprise her Kamala Harris on 'SNL' are flooding in on social media



Maya Rudolph appears at the Time100 Gala in New York on April 25, 2024, left, and Vice President Kamala Harris appears at a luncheon for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the State Department in Washington on April 11, 2024.

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Will Maya Rudolph's "funt," aka Vice President Kamala Harris, be back on "Saturday Night Live?"

Speculation has been running hot since Sunday, when President Joe Biden dropped his election news, but the "SNL" alum is a busy actor these days.

Rudolph earned four Emmy nods last week for her work on three different shows: "Loot" (just renewed for a third season on Apple TV+), "Big Mouth" on Netflix and two nominations for a hosting stint on "SNL."

She played Harris several times as a guest on "SNL" in 2019, during the 2020 presidential election cycle. Rudolph was a cast member on the NBC show from 2000 to 2007.

The "Bridesmaids" actor won an Emmy for her Harris in December 2019 during a cold open send-up of the PBS Democratic debate soon after Harris dropped out of the presidential race. She debuted the character earlier that year during a town hall bit that had her introducing her Harris as "America's cool aunt. A fun aunt. I call that a 'funt.'" Her Emmy-winning turn as Harris referenced Lizzo's "Truth Hurts" with: "I just want to show you how good you could've had it, America. You withheld your donations, and I got tired of waiting, so I walked my fine ass out the door." Rudolph then sang: "You coulda had a bad bitch."

Calls for Rudolph to return to the role have flooded social media since Biden stepped aside. He and Democratic leaders have thrown their support to Harris as their presidential nominee ahead of the Aug. 19 start of the party's convention in Chicago. □



# NASCAR's restart rules questioned after Larson takes advantage of unusual Brickyard 400 finish

By **MICHAEL MAROT**

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Ryan

Blaney thought he was perfectly positioned to win the Brickyard 400 on Sunday.

He drove down Indianapolis Motor Speedway's front straightaway leading the outside lane of cars to the second-to-last restart, fully expecting to inherit the lead when race leader Brad Keselowski ran out of fuel.

Instead, as Keselowski's slowing car pulled off the track, Kyle Larson, who was running third directly behind Keselowski, pulled next to Blaney on the preferred inside line, made the pass for the lead and did it again on the final restart to seal his first Brickyard victory.

While Larson celebrated by kissing Indy's famed yard of bricks, Blaney was lamenting what just happened and whether NASCAR officials should have done something different.

"Yeah, call it off and rechoose (the lanes) because now you promote the third-place guy before the second-place guy if the leader has problems," Blaney said. "That isn't right. It is just dumb luck at this race-track where the bottom (line) is preferred. I am just upset. That is a heartbreaker. We did everything right today." Larson played it by the book.



Ryan Blaney drives during the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Sunday, July 21, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

The cars were already near or in the restart zone when Keselowski pulled off and Cup rules don't allow for changing the restart order, even if the leader drops out late. In fact, had the same situation occurred further back in the running order, another driver likely would have done exactly the same thing as Larson. Blaney responded on his radio with an angry, profane rant, saying Cup officials "gave" Larson the victory. But Blaney and Larson both chose their place in line for

the same reason each knew Keselowski was low on fuel and each wanted to take advantage when he ran out. "I was going to choose behind him no matter what lane he took just because we hoped he would run out before the restart zone," Larson said.

"I was trying to pay attention to him, and he was cycling his engine, trying to clean and warm up his tires, and then, yeah, he just dumped off onto pit road and I was like, 'Wow, I can't believe this

is going exactly how we kind of hoped.'"

Larson acknowledged the ensuing situation was confusing.

With the leader out, Larson said he wasn't sure whether his car or Blaney's car was considered the control car on the restart and he didn't know if Blaney could decipher it, either.

So, Larson made his move, with what he believed two cars accelerating nearly in unison.

NASCAR senior vice president

of competition Elton Sawyer explained afterward that if the race remained under caution for one more lap, current rules would have made Blaney the control car but would not have allowed to change lanes.

"We had already gone through the choose process, so we were coming to green when (Keselowski) pulled off, which allowed (Larson) to pull up and transferred control to (Blaney)," Sawyer told NASCAR's digital platform.

"This all happens fairly quick. Hindsight, I think we still would have let that play out the way we did. We'll discuss that more."

Sawyer and others now have a rare two-week Olympic break to consider their options and whether anything needs to be changed or clarified.

But even if NASCAR modified the rule, it will be of little solace to Blaney.

"I don't even know what to get mad about," Blaney said after finishing third. "I am mad about losing this race because I thought we were in the perfect position. Once I lost control of the race, obviously I would have been on the bottom, but I thought (Keselowski) would run out in the restart zone or on the back. It stinks to lose it that way." □

## Columbus Blue Jackets hire Dean Evason as their next coach

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

The Columbus Blue Jackets hired Dean Evason as coach on Monday, filling the NHL's final vacancy two months before training camps open.

Evason, 59, will be Columbus' third coach in as many seasons not counting Mike Babcock being hired and resigning on the eve of training camp last September. The team said Evason agreed to a multiyear contract.

New Blue Jackets general manager Don Waddell fired Pascal Vincent not long after taking over

control of the organization's hockey operations department. Evason ultimately emerged as the top candidate in the coaching search to replace Vincent. "(Evason) has spent well over two decades in this league as a player, assistant coach and head coach and I believe that experience, combined with the outstanding person he is, will allow Dean to get the best out of our players and put us in a position to succeed as a team," Waddell said in a statement.

Evason coached the Minnesota Wild for parts of the past five seasons before

being fired and replaced by John Hynes in November. This is his second head-coaching job in the league, a career that also included a stint as an assistant with Washington and then Minnesota, for which he was a midseason replacement of Bruce Boudreau in 2020.

In this role, Evason is tasked with helping end the Blue Jackets' postseason drought. They have missed the playoffs each of the last four years and have yet to get past the second round in 24 seasons as a franchise. "There is a great core and a lot of young talent on this team," Evason said. "I am



Minnesota Wild head coach Dean Evason speaks to players during NHL hockey training camp Sept. 22, 2022, in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

really looking forward to working with this group and helping us become a team that plays extremely hard and competes at the highest level."

Evason was a center during his playing days, appearing in over 800 games with Washington, Hartford, San Jose, Dallas and Calgary from 1983-96. □



# LeBron James selected as Team USA male flagbearer for Paris Olympics opening ceremony

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

LeBron James wasn't totally sure what the opening ceremony was all about when he was picked for his first Olympics in 2004. This time, he'll be one of the stars of the show. James has been picked by his fellow U.S. Olympians to serve as the male flagbearer for the Americans in Friday night's opening ceremony for the Paris Games. He becomes the third basketball player and the first men's player to carry the U.S. flag at the start of an Olympics, joining Dawn Staley for the Athens Games in 2004 and Sue Bird for the Tokyo Games that happened in 2021. "It's an incredible honor to represent the United States on this global stage, especially in a moment that can bring the whole world together," James said. "For a kid from Akron, this responsibility means everything to not only myself, but to my family, all the kids in my hometown, my teammates, fellow Olympians and so many people across the country with big aspirations. Sports have the power to bring us all together, and I'm proud to be a part of this



United States' forward LeBron James waves to the crowd after the end of an exhibition basketball game between the United States and South Sudan, at the o2 Arena in London, Saturday, July 20, 2024.

Associated Press

important moment." The 39-year-old James got word of the honor Monday in London, a few hours before the U.S. men's team was scheduled to play its final pre-Olympics exhibition game against World Cup champion Germany. Fellow U.S. star and first-time Olympian Stephen Curry, on behalf of the U.S. men's team, nominated James for the flagbearer role.

"We understand how much of an honor it is to be in that position and I think Bron's entire career, on and off the court, speaks for itself as him being worthy of that honor," Curry said in the nomination video. "He has represented what it means to be excellent both on and off the court in his commitment to service and to uplifting the community in all ways that he knows how has been a lifelong pas-

sion," Curry added. "And the work speaks for itself." The female U.S. flagbearer is expected to be revealed Tuesday. The International Olympic Committee decided in 2020 that national delegations would have two flagbearers one male, one female at the opening ceremony at an Olympics, a move to promote gender parity. The U.S. is expected to have nearly 600 athletes in

the Paris Games, about 53% of them female. "Being selected by your teammates to carry the flag is a tremendous honor and a testament to LeBron's passion for Team USA and his dedication to his sport," U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee CEO Sarah Hirshland said. James a global icon, a four-time NBA champion and the league's all-time leading scorer set to go into his record-tying 22nd NBA season is set to play in the Olympics for the fourth time, after he was part of U.S. teams that won bronze in 2004, gold at Beijing in 2008 and gold again in London in 2012. He walked in the opening ceremony at each of his three previous Olympics. This time, he'll float. This will be an opening ceremony like none other in Olympic history: Thousands of athletes will be part of a flotilla sailing along the River Seine at sunset toward the Eiffel Tower. It's a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) route, with about 320,000 guests set to watch from the river bank and about 1 billion more, Olympic officials estimate, watching on televisions around the world. □

# Tour winner Tadej Pogacar withdraws from Paris Olympics road race due to fatigue

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
AP Sports Writer  
**PARIS (AP)** — Three-time Tour de France winner

Tadej Pogacar withdrew from the road race at the Paris Olympics late Monday, one day after becoming



Tour de France winner Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the twenty-first stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial over 33.7 kilometers (20.9 miles) with start in Monaco and finish in Nice, France, Sunday, July 21, 2024.

Associated Press

ing the first rider to win the Tour and the Giro d'Italia in the same season in nearly three decades. The Slovenian Olympic Team announced Pogacar had withdrawn from the Aug. 3 road race due to fatigue. His professional teammate, Domen Novak, will replace him rather than Primož Roglič, the defending Olympic time trial gold medalist, who was left off the nation's provisional lineup and is likely still recovering from the crash that took him out of the Tour. "Unfortunately, Tadej Pogacar will not be among (the riders in Paris)," the Slovenian team said in a statement. "He will be replaced by

national team colleague Domen Novak. We wish Domen all the best and success." Novak will be joined in the Slovenian lineup by Jan Tratnik, Matej Mohoric and Luka Mezgec. "Once again," the Slovenia team said, "congratulations to the Tour de France winner for his third victory in the world's most prestigious cycling race, and we hope he rests well and prepares for his next races." The 25-year-old Pogacar has already said he will not race in the Vuelta a España in August, the third of the three Grand Tours. Instead, he is expected to recuperate ahead of the world championships in September in Switzerland.

Pogacar was expected to battle two-time winner Jonas Vingegaard all the way to Nice, where the three-week Tour ended Sunday rather than with its customary finish on the Champs-Élysées because of the Paris Games. Instead, he pulled on the leader's yellow jersey after winning Stage 4 to Valloire and never let his biggest rivals get anywhere close to him the rest of the way. Pogacar capped his dominance by winning the time trial Sunday for his 17th career stage win. He finished more than six minutes ahead of Vingegaard overall and more than nine ahead of third-place Remco Evenepoel, one of the Olympic favorites. □